

31. (ONCE AMENDED) A plurality of modular containers that can be interconnected, for multiple uses[; in accordance with claim 1, [characterized because] wherein the lateral walls of the [bottle] container correspond to a prism [of] having a trapeziform base.

32. (ONCE AMENDED) A plurality of modular containers that can be interconnected, for multiple uses[; in accordance with claim 1, [characterized because] wherein the lateral walls of the [bottle] container correspond to a prism [of] having a circular base.

## REMARKS

### Introduction

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-32 are pending, with all claims having been amended above to bring them into compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112. No new matter has been entered. Applicant notes that claims 4-6, 13-14, and 23 stand withdrawn from consideration pending allowance of generic claim 1.

Applicant further notes that only claims 1-24 were examined, and no mention is made of claims 25-32, which are contained in the application. Thus, since only some claims were initially examined, and since Applicant is entitled to an action on all claims, the next action, if not a notice of allowance, may not be a final rejection.

### The Section 103 Rejection

The rejection of claims 1-3, 7-12, 15-22, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hasselmann in view of Koelichen is respectfully traversed.

Hasselmann teaches a plurality of containers that may be connected. However, in order for the containers to remain together, "they are held in interengagement by an encircling band which is advantageously applied around the containers between the upper and lower projections at a location at which the projections will prevent the band from falling off upwardly or downwardly." See Hasselmann, column 1, lines 29-33. In other words, the device disclosed by Hasselmann must undergo constant and continuous pressure to stay together.

On the other hand, the invention of claim 1 clearly recites that only "initial, but not continuous pressure" is needed in order to keep the claimed plurality of containers together. In other words, the claimed containers snap together. No such connection is disclosed in the prior art.

Koelichen does nothing to compensate for the deficiencies of Hasselmann. Rather, Koelichen merely discloses grooves and wedges respectively positioned on the lateral walls to hold the containers together. Koelichen fails to disclose any top or bottom surface connections for the containers that merely requires initial pressure and not continuous pressure.

Thus, the § 103 rejection based on the combination of Hasselmann in view of Koelichen is believed overcome and withdrawal of same is respectfully requested.

### Conclusion

As all rejections raised by the Examiner have been addressed and overcome, this application is in condition for allowance. Such Notice is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain unresolved, it is respectfully requested that the undersigned be contacted in order to expedite and complete prosecution.

If any further fees are required by the submission of this Amendment, please charge same to deposit account no. 19-3935.

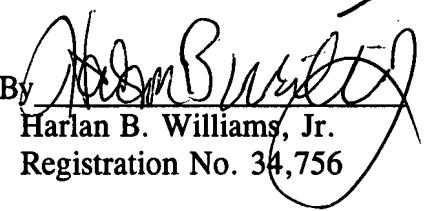
Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: October 30, 1998

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